

the revolutionists now declared capable of governing. Nor did it avail that Juana, in return, nominated Padilla Captain-general of the kingdom, with dictatorial powers. The eccentric queen was not equal to the emergency. She played an irresolute part as between the popular delegates and the nobility, and would not adhibit her signature to the acts of the Junta. Whilst the cleavage between aristocracy and democracy, which was in fact of old standing, became wider and wider, the royalists, who found leaders in the Constable Velasco and his son, Count Haro, and the reactionaries were rallying in support of the royal authority. This division proves only too clearly that the reformers were incompetent to guide the movement to any practical result. Their aspirations were too large for their capacities. The various orders had not been accustomed to act together in the Cortes, and they soon found it impossible to co-operate in the Junta or the field. The incompatibility of their respective interests and aspirations is as apparent in Spanish as in French history. It was this that wrecked the parliamentary machine in France; and it contributed to paralyse effective action on the part of the Junta at this crisis of Spanish history. Even had the army of the Comuneros succeeded in defeating the trained levies of the Constable, power would have fallen into the hands of the representatives of the eighteen cities which claimed the exclusive right of representation in the Cortes.

Moreover, the Junta wasted its energies in decreeing democratic reforms, while neglecting to take adequate measures for their realisation. It negotiated with the absent monarch, while defying his government. It quarrelled and hesitated, and revolutions which vacillate between irresolution and spasmodic action do not succeed. Worst of all, it substituted

Don Pedro de Giron for Padilla as Captain-general, and Giron proved utterly unfit for the post, if indeed he was not a traitor to the popular cause. He withdrew his troops from Tordesillas, and allowed it to be stormed and pillaged by Count Haro (5th December). Juana sank again into the position of a prisoner; and though Padilla strove,

as Captain-  
general once more, in place of Giron, to retrieve  
the losing  
cause of the confederates and captured  
Torrelobaton, his  
efforts to retake Tordesillas and free the queen  
were frustrated  
VOL. II. F